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Airport Security

September 1, 2003

In the evolving struggle over how best to spend the homeland security dollar, a debate that the nation has only just begun, here's a tiny item of good news for travelers who fly out of Long Island: The federal Transportation Security Administration has moderated its draconian plans for cutting the number of security screeners at Long Island MacArthur Airport.



In April, the fledgling agency said it planned to cut 6,000 U.S. screeners, for a cost saving of less than \$300 million. MacArthur would have been hit especially hard, from 104 to 56 - later revised to 63. Now, with a helpful nudge from Rep. Steve Israel (D-Huntington), the TSA has taken note of the airport's continuing expansion and decided to put the cuts on hold.

The new plan is to create part-time jobs, filled by full-time workers volunteering to reduce their hours, and retain 79 full-timers. For now, that's a rational approach. Let's hope that the TSA looks at the growth of the small but thriving Islip airport and finds the funds to match the security force to the growing needs.

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